



City of Alexandria

Transportation Commission

Regular Meeting

December 7, 2011
7:30 p.m.
City Council Workroom

MINUTES

Commissioners Present: Donna Fossum, Jesse Jennings, Jennifer Mitchell, and Justin Wilson

Staff Present: Abi Lerner -T&ES, Jim Maslanka - T&ES, Steve Sindiong - T&ES, Karen Callahan – T&ES

Others Present: Josh Sawislak, a member of the Environmental Policy Commission, attended the meeting in place of Phil Voorhees.

A quorum being present, the Chair called the Transportation Commission meeting to order at 7:38pm.

1. November 2, 2011 Minutes

Vice Chair Mitchell asked if there were any comments, additions or corrections to be made to the October minutes. Approval of the minutes was recommended subject to Commissioner Wilson's one edit. A motion was made to approve, seconded, and unanimously approved.

2. Funding Update

T&ES staff, Abi Lerner reported that City Council adopted the City's legislative package which includes a provision to allow the City to acquire additional revenue in a new gasoline tax, new sales tax, and new state grants. The Commonwealth Transportation Board approved the 2011 Constrained Long Range Plan at its meeting of November 16, 2011. The Transportation Planning Board's Steering Committee adopted an amendment to the FY2011-2016 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to include a project which funds an Alternatives Analysis study of Alexandria's Transitway Corridor C. The WMATA Board adopted resolutions to change the names of some Metrorail stations, including renaming King Street station to King St-Old Town. The WMATA Board adopted a set of service changes which will include providing mid-day service on Route 25A from Bradlee Center to Parkfairfax. This change will occur in December, 2011. The NVTC received a report on a potential way for the region to receive more FTA Section 5307 funds by reporting on the operation of vanpools in the region. At NVTC's December meeting, a decision must be made about who will be the NVTC's representatives on the WMATA Board.

3. Alexandria Quality of Life Community Indicator (AQLI)

T&ES staff Abi Lerner reported that the City has been working with Alexandria Community Trust, Virginia Tech, and Partnership for a Healthier Alexandria to develop an AQLI System. Extensive public input is desired from subject matter experts, commissions, partnerships and City staff. Indicators describe community conditions and means to measure progress toward goals. Staff has already provided some input on the AQLI. Input is being asked from the Transportation Commission on the headline indicators. Commissioners were asked to consider if there are any fatal flaws among the indicators, issues, concerns and/or advice. Comments are due December 9, 2011. A draft report will be released in January 2012. The Commission noted that the subject of Transportation merits its own separate category (separate from recreation). Other comments were made on the following headline indicators: Percentage of residents who live within ¼ mile of a public transportation point; number of open spaces per 1,000 residents. It was suggested that congestion or travel time should be added as an indicator.

4. FY 2013 CIP Update

At the October and November meetings, Commission gave staff guidelines in prioritizing funding needs. However, to remain revenue neutral, staff has now been directed to identify departmental budget reductions of 6% and reductions in the FY 2013 CIP. The Commission provided input toward projects that could be redefined or delayed, such as Transitway Corridor B, and the Landmark Mall transit center. It was noted that all projects should be on a level playing field before any funding is borrowed from one project to add to another. The subcommittee will reconvene to find funding alternatives to move forward on.

5. Staff Updates

CRYSTAL CITY-POTOMAC YARD TRANSITWAY – The contract with the Design/Build firm of Lane Construction Corporation with STV as their designer was signed on November 30, 2011. The project will be completed in winter 2013 in line with the opening of the Route 1 Transitway.

BRAC-133 UPDATE – A BRAC-133 Advisory Group meeting will be held on December 14, 2011 at Alexandria-South Pentagon Courtyard Marriott, 7-9:00 PM.

Transitway Corridor Feasibility Study - For Corridor A, a number of alignment options were presented to the High Capacity Transit Corridor Work Group (CWG) at its September 15, 2011 meeting, including use of West Street, Route 1, and Washington Street. Since then, the project team has been reviewing the concepts and input received from the CWG and the public. A CWG meeting is scheduled for December 15, 2011. At that time, staff will bring its recommendation to the CWG for review and input. For Corridor B, a CWG meeting was held on November 21, 2011 where a number of alternatives for alignment / running way options along Duke Street were presented. In general, the CWG favored alternative B (Curb Running in Mixed Flow and Dedicated lanes). The next step is to have a narrowed set of alternatives analyzed using the secondary screening criteria, and the report / analysis brought back to the CWG at its January 19, 2012 meeting.

For Corridor C (Beauregard / Van Dorn), the project team is proceeding with developing implementation measures and is preparing preliminary plan view drawings for the portion of the transitway within the City of Alexandria.

King Street Station Name Change - WMATA is reorganizing its Blue and Yellow Metrorail services in the summer of 2012 to place more Blue Line trains on the Yellow Line Bridge into the District of Columbia, the City and other jurisdictions. As a result, the City and other jurisdictions in the WMATA Compact had the opportunity to request changing the names of Metrorail stations within their City at a modest cost. The City requested King Street Station be changed to King St-Old Town Station. The WMATA Board considered the City's request and staff's recommendation and decided that since the City's proposal met all the criteria WMATA established, WMATA would adopt the City's recommendation. This occurred at a special Board meeting on November 3, 2011.

6. Commission Updates

Commissioner Wilson indicated the DASH Operating Statistics were submitted to T&ES staff, Steve Sindiong and the Commission can expect to see those each month.

Commissioner Fossum reported that the Planning Commission approved the Arlandria Gateway project, the Safeway at Bradlee Center and the final design phase of James Bland. The Landmark Gateway plan was deferred.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made at 8:45p.m., seconded and unanimously accepted.